

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

_____	:	
ROBERT EDWARD WHITESIDE,	:	
	:	
Petitioner,	:	Civ. No. 20-5544 (NLH)
v.	:	
	:	MEMORANDUM ORDER
	:	APPOINTING CJA COUNSEL
FORT DIX FEDERAL PRISON,	:	
	:	
Respondent.	:	
_____	:	

APPEARANCES:

Robert Edward Whiteside  
59278-056  
Fort Dix Federal Correctional Institution  
Inmate Mail/Parcels  
P.O. Box 2000  
Joint Base MDL, NJ 08640

Petitioner Pro se

Craig Carpenito, United States Attorney  
Elizabeth Ann Pascal, Assistant United States Attorney  
Office of the U.S. Attorney  
401 Market Street  
P.O. Box 2098  
Camden, NJ 08101

Counsel for Respondent

HILLMAN, District Judge

WHEREAS, Petitioner Robert Edward Whiteside brings this  
petition for writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241  
asking to be released to home confinement due to the coronavirus  
COVID-19 pandemic, see ECF No. 1; and

WHEREAS, the United States opposes the petition, ECF No. 16; and

WHEREAS, on November 2, 2020, Petitioner filed a letter with the Court stating the Bureau of Prisons transferred 60 inmates from FCI Elkton to FCI Fort Dix. ECF No. 23. FCI Elkton was identified by Attorney General William Barr as being particularly hard-hit by COVID-19, Memorandum for Director of Bureau of Prisons, Apr. 3, 2020, available at <https://www.justice.gov/file/1266661/download> (last visited Nov. 2, 2020) ("April 3 Memorandum"); and

WHEREAS, Petitioner reports that the prisoners from Elkton were placed in a unit that later had 10 inmates test positive for COVID-19, ECF No. 23 at 2; and

WHEREAS, Petitioner states 4 Elkton inmates were transferred into Petitioner's unit, id.; and

WHEREAS, in a supplemental filing ordered by the Court, the United States denies that any prisoners from FCI Elkton were transferred into Petitioner's unit, ECF No. 26; and

WHEREAS, Petitioner requests the appointment of counsel. ECF No. 19. The Court finds that it would be beneficial to have counsel appointed; and

WHEREAS, the Court finds Petitioner to be financially eligible for the appointment of counsel as he was represented by the Federal Public Defender during his criminal proceedings; and

WHEREAS, appointed counsel shall amend or supplement the petition, if necessary, within 21 days of his or her appointment; and

WHEREAS, the United States may supplement its answer within 14 days of the amended petition,

Therefore, IT IS on this 19th day of November, 2020,

ORDERED that Petitioner's motion for the appointment of counsel, ECF No. 19, is granted. 18 U.S.C. § 3006A(2)(B); and it is further

ORDERED that appointed counsel shall amend or supplement the petition, if necessary, within 21 days of his or her appointment; and it is further

ORDERED that the United States may supplement its answer within 14 days of the amended petition; and it is finally

ORDERED that the Clerk shall serve a copy of this Order on Petitioner by regular U.S. mail.

At Camden, New Jersey

s/ Noel L. Hillman  
NOEL L. HILLMAN, U.S.D.J.